Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL SANTIAGO 0745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: CHILE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMISSION

REF: STATE 21202

- 1. SUMMARY: I PRESENTED OUR VIEWS ON SITUATION RE CHILE IN UNHRC TO FONOFF DIRGEN ILLANES. HE WAS NOT HAPPY ABOUT THRUST OF PROPOSED STATEMENT BY US REP BUT POINTS OUT NEW DECREE PURPORTING TO PROVIDE PROCEDURAL PROTECTION TO DETAINEES IS MAJOR STEP FORWARD. WHILE A VISIT TO CHILE BY UNHRC WORKING GROUP IS NOT IN THE CARDS, GOC MIGHT EXPLORE OTHER MEANS OF INDICATING ITS OPENNESS TO ON-THE-SPOT OBSERVATION BY RESPONSIBLE OUTSIDERS. MEANWHILE, GOC WOULD APPARENTLY LIKE TO SHIFT EMPHASIS IN MULTILATERAL REPORTING ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS HERE AWAY FROM UN COMMISSION AND INTO HANDS OF INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. END SUMMARY.
- 2. SINCE FONOFF DIRGEN ILLANES IS CURRENTLY COORDINATING ALL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES IN GOC FONOFF, I CALLED ON HIM URGENTLY MORNING JAN 29 IN VIEW IMMINENCE OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING FEB 2.

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3. WE WENT OVER USG VIEWPOINT, AS CONTAINED PARAS 3 AND 4 REFTEL,

IN DETAIL AND WITH GREAT CARE. THOUGH NOT HAPPY, ILLANES APPRECIATED PREVIEW BEING GIVEN TO GOC OF US POSITION AT UPCOMING MEETING.

- 4. THERE WERE TWO SPECIAL FLASH POINTS WHICH I WOULD FLAG FOR US REP'S CONSIDERATION. FIRST OF THESE CAME WHEN ILLANES THOUGHT I WAS STATING THAT US REP WOULD REFER IN HIS STATEMENT SPECIFICALLY TO SHEILA CASSIDY CASE: ILLANES BELIEVES IT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY FALSIFIED AS PART OF FOREIGN ATTACK ON GOC. I NOTED THAT MESSAGE STATES US REP INTENDS TO MAKE REFERENCE TO AMERICANS, AND RATHER IMPLIES THAT HE WILL NOT SINGLE OUT SHEILA CASSIDY CASE.
- 5. SECOND FLASH POINT CAME, AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN FORESEEN, WITH SUGGESTION THAT GOC MIGHT ACCEPT VISIT FROM UNHRC WORKING GROUP IN NEAR FUTURE. ILLANES SAID THIS WAS ABSOLUTELY FORECLOSED. PRESIDENT HAD MADE DECISION, AND WOULD NOT REVERSE IT
- 6. BULK OF CONVERSATION REVOLVED ABOUT QUESTION WHETHER OR HOW GOC COULD ACT TO RESPOND TO INTERNATIONAL CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE. FIRST POINT DISCUSSED WAS POSITIVE NATURE OF DECREE PUBLISHED IN JAN 29 SANTIAGO PRESS (SEPTEL), BROADENING PROCEDURAL PROTECTION TO BE GRANTED TO PERSONS DETAINED FOR NATIONAL SECURITY REASONS. I SAID THAT WHILE DECREE COVERED ONLY A PART OF THE BASIC PROBLEM, AND WAY IN WHICH IT WAS IMPLEMENTED WOULD BE IMPORTANT, I HOPED US REP WOULD TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT IN WHAT HE SAID IN GENEVA.
- 7. ILLANES MADE ADDITIONAL POINT OF INTEREST. HE SAID THAT WHILE THERE WAS NO PROSPECT OF RECEIVING THE UNHRC WORKING GROUP, AS HAD AGAIN BEEN MADE CLEAR TO CHAIRMAN ALLANA RECENTLY, GOC WAS NOT WALKING AWAY FROM UN BUT RATHER, TRYING TO FIND OTHER MEANS OF MAINTAINING USEFUL CONTACT. GOC HAD EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS

TO COOPERATE WITH UN IN SUPPLYING INFORMATION; IT HAD TENTATIVELY EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY UNSYG WALDHEIM, IT WAS CONSTANTLY FURNISHING MATERIAL TO UNHRC SECRETARIAT CHIEF SCHREIBER.

8. WE SPECULATED INFORMALLY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHER VISITS TO CHILE BY RESPONSIBLE PERSONS, TO OVERCOME SOME OF THE STIGMA CONFIDENTIAL

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INCURRED BY BARRING THE UNHRC WORKING GROUP. ILLANES WONDERED WHETHER AMB MOYNIHAN COULD NOT VISIT CHILE. I SAID I DOUBTED THIS WAS FEASIBLE IN VIEW OF HIS HAVY COMMITMENTS. ILLANES THEN SUGGESTED "SOME UN UNDER SECRETARY," SUCH AS BRADFORD MORES. I TOLD HIM WILLIAN BUFFUN NOW HELD THE JOB, AND THAT A FOLLOW-UP TO THE TRIP MADE BY MORSE IN 1974 COULD CONCEIVABLY BE A POSSIBILITY. ILLANES INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PURSUE THIS THOUGHT IN HIGHER QUARTERS.

9. I ASKED ILLANES WHAT HE THOUGHT THE CHILEAN SPOKESMAN WOULD DO AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING. HE SAID SERGIO DIEZ, THE GOC REP, WOULD POINT OUT TO THE COMMISSION THAT THE INTERAMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WOULD BE DRAFTING A NEW REPORT IN MARCH, THAT THIS REPORT WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SOME TIME IN JUNE, THAT IT WOULD BE AN UP-TO-DATE REPORT WHICH THE GOC COULD FORWARD TO THE UN, AND THAT THE INTERAMERICAN COMMISSION WOULC BE IN PHYSICAL ATTANDANCE IN SANTIAGO IN JUNE. IT WAS CLEAR CHILEANS ARE AT LEAST CONSIDERING TRYING TO USE THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION TO COUNTERACT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THEY ARE HAVING WITH THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

10. COMMENT: AS OUR EARLIER TELEGRAMS HAVE INDICATED, NEW PROCEDURAL DECREE WILL IF ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED PROVIDE A CONSIDERABLE MEASURE OF PROTECTION TO DETAINEES. IT IS THE RESULT OF INTENSE EFFORT BY MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT. I HOPE US REP CAN ASSESS IT FAIRLY IN HIS STATEMENT, AS A POSITIVE STEP RESPONSIVE TO CONCERN RE PRESENT CHILEAN PRACTICES. GOC SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO GO FURTHER IN DIRECTION OF PROCEDURAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES, THROUGH INVOLVEMENT OF CIVILIAN TRIBUNALS AND JURISTS.

11. AT SAME TIME, I HOPE THAT WHILE GOC WILL BE URGED TO RESUME ITS EARLIER POLICY OF OPENNESS TO RESPONSIBLE INVESTIGATING BODIES, NOT TOO MUCH OF A POINT WILL BE MADE OF REQUIREMENT TO REVERSE SPECIFICALLY THE BARRING OF THE UN WORKING GROUP. BLUNDER THOUGH IT WAS, THAT STEP IS NOW REGARDED HERE AS AN ASSERTION OF CHILE'S SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENCE. ATTEMPTS TO REOPEN MATTER ARE THEREFORE LIKELY TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. A DIRECT INJUNCTION TO ADMIT THIS INVESTIGATING GROUP, AT OUTSIDERS' BEHEST, IS SEEN AS APPLICATION OF A STANDARD TO CHILE NEVER BEFORE REQUIRED OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

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12. I WOULD APPRICIATE ANY REACTIONS DEPARTMENT AND LEONARD GARMENT MAY HAVE TO FOREGOING. IF APPROPRIATE, I COULD PURSUE WITH ILLANES AND OTHERS ANY FURTHER APPROACHES DESIRED. POPPER

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